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NOTES AND NEWS.

DR. JAMES CUSHING MERRILL, a Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union, died at his home in Washington, D. C., on October 27, 1902. He was born March 23, 1853, in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where his boyhood was spent and the earlier part of his education obtained. He afterwards attended school in Germany, and on returning to this country entered the Medical Department of the University of Pennsylvania, from which he was graduated in 1874. About a year later he was appointed

Assistant Surgeon in the United States Army. For many years after this he was stationed at various military posts in the West and Southwest, where he devoted most of his leisure time to studying and collecting birds and their nests and eggs. He also collected insects, especially beetles, and to some extent mammals and fishes, and he was an ardent sportsman and hunter of big game. Nearly all of his specimens were given to personal friends or to museums, the greater part of the bird skins going to Mr. Brewster's collection, and most of the nests and eggs to the National Museum.

On November 16, 1892, Dr. Merrill was married to Mary Pitt Chase of Maryland, and on March 13, 1894, he was made a full Surgeon with the rank of Major. Three years later (April 1, 1897) he was appointed Librarian of the Surgeon General's Office at Washington. Here he spent the remainder of his days, performing, with his accustomed steadfastness and ability, tasks irksome to a man of his temperament, and so very arduous and confining that by degrees his health gave way under the strain. He kept steadily at his work, however, until within a few months of his death, although in the summer of 1902 he was induced to spend a few weeks at White Sulphur Springs, Virginia, in the vain hope that the rest and change might do him permanent good.

Dr. Merrill was elected an Active Member of the American Ornithologists' Union at its first Congress in 1883. He was intensely loyal to its interests and universally beloved and respected by its members, for he had rare personal charm and marked ability as a naturalist, although his extreme modesty prevented him from undertaking tasks and attaining honors to which he might otherwise have successfully aspired. He was by no means uninterested in purely technical matters of science and fully qualified, both by nature and training, for dealing with them effectively, but his published writings relate almost exclusively to personal field observations on the habits and distribution of western birds and mammals. They are not numerous but their quality is of the first order, for he was an exceptionally accurate and intelligent observer as well as a pleasing and finished writer. His more important ornithological papers are:— 'Notes on the Ornithology of Southern Texas, being a list of birds observed in the vicinity of Fort Brown, Texas, from February, 1876, to June, 1878' (*Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus.*, Vol. I, 1878, pp. 118-173); 'Notes on the Birds of Fort Klamath, Oregon. With remarks on certain species by William Brewster' (*Auk*, Vol. V, 1888, pp. 139-146, 251-262, 357-366); and 'Notes on the Birds of Fort Sherman, Idaho' (*Auk*, Vol. XIV, 1897, pp. 347-357; Vol. XV, 1898, pp. 14-22).

In accordance with a standing order of the Union respecting deceased Fellows, a special memorial of his life and work will be presented at the next Congress of the American Ornithologists' Union, and published later in 'The Auk.'—W. B.

DR. EMIL HOLUB, a Corresponding Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union, died at Vienna, February 21, 1902, in the 55th year of his age. For the following notice of the life and work of this well-known African traveller and collector we are indebted to 'The Ibis' (July, 1902, p. 521).

"Dr. Holub was a native of Bohemia and of Czech descent. He was educated as an apothecary, but emigrated early to South Africa, and practised as a doctor at Kimberly and elsewhere. His original inducement to penetrate into the far interior of the country was his ardent taste for natural history, especially ornithology, to the pursuit of which his first seven years of travel were mainly devoted. His journeys were described in his 'Sieben Jahre in Süd-Afrika' (Wien, 1881), a work which was translated into English and published in London. In conjunction with the late Freiherr v. Pelzeln, the collection of birds made on this occasion was described by him in a volume entitled 'Beiträge zur Ornithologie Sudafrikas' (Vienna, 1882). Dr. Holub subsequently returned to South Africa, and made a more extended expedition into the Marotse and Mashukulumbé countries north of the Zambesi, now forming part of Northern Rhodesia. During his four years' wanderings on this occasion (1883-87) a large collection of native arms and implements, as well as of natural objects, was made, and was exhibited at Vienna on his return to Europe. This journey was described in his work 'Von der Capstadt ins Land der Maschukulumbé' (2 vols., Vienna, 1890)."

CHESTER BARLOW, a Member of the American Ornithologists' Union, and one of the best known of the younger ornithologists of this country, died at Mountain View, Santa Clara County, California, Nov. 6, 1902. Death resulted from an incurable form of tuberculosis and took place after a few weeks of marked debilitation and but a few days of final confining sickness. Interment was made at Mountain View in the presence of a large number of friends, prominent among whom were many members of the Cooper Ornithological Club of which Mr. Barlow was a founder and the Secretary for nine years.

Although but 28 years of age he had accomplished much for ornithology, and the position which he held among his fellows in California and among the younger ornithologists throughout the country was unique. He was a thoroughly self-made man, and the large degree of popularity which he enjoyed was due to sterling qualities combined with a loving disposition and an impressionable nature. He was educated in the common schools of Santa Clara, California, and immediately after graduation took a position as a clerk in the Santa Clara Valley Bank. Indeed, while still in school he helped support his widowed mother by assisting with the accounts at this bank in spare hours, having begun his career as stable boy for one of its senior officers. His ability and integrity soon won promotion, and in the course of a few years he became assistant cashier and later was elected a member of the board of directors. He was married Oct. 15, 1899, to Miss Jeannette Nicholls of Santa Clara,

and his home life was a very happy one. He spent all his leisure in the woods and fields indulging his love for the birds and things of nature, showing an energetic spirit and a rare enthusiasm. He knew the haunts of all the birds near his home in the Santa Clara Valley, and though his time was much occupied by business, he seldom failed to contrive a way to obtain a daily hour or two in the field during the spring and summer months. He was a careful and discriminating collector and a very ardent advocate of bird protection. He was also an enthusiastic and successful photographer, being one of the first in this country to obtain good pictures of birds in their haunts. Although having no special education, and making no profession of wide knowledge of technical ornithology, in his short career he unquestionably accomplished more for the advancement of bird study in California than any other one man has done. He was preëminently a man of action—a man who obtained results. He is entitled to all the credit for the original organization and much of the subsequent prosperity of the Cooper Ornithological Club. To his enterprise and foresight was due the birth of the Club's 'Bulletin,' later 'The Condor,' and to his unflinching industry and vigilance, its recognized position at present as the best ornithological journal of its class in the world. As secretary of this club and as editor of 'The Condor' he became quite widely known, and his correspondence was exceedingly voluminous; and such was the charm of his nature that many who had never seen him learned to love him through the hearty, sympathetic, and likewise virile letters that he wrote them. It was his dearest wish to visit the eastern States to meet some of his correspondents and attend a congress of the A. O. U., and had he lived he would have done so as soon as circumstances permitted. As it is, those who mourn him are on both sides of the continent, and those to whom his death is almost like that of a brother are not a few.—W. H. O.

LUDWIG KUMLIEN, an associate of the American Ornithologists' Union, died at his home in Milton, Wisconsin, Dec. 4, 1902, after long suffering from cancer of the throat, in the 50th year of his age. He was a son of the late Thure Kumlien, one of the pioneer naturalists of Wisconsin, and a valued correspondent of Baird, Brewer, Cassin and Lawrence, and was born at Sumner, Wisconsin, March 15, 1853. He was educated at the Albion Academy and the University of Wisconsin, and at the time of his death was Professor of Physics and Natural History in Milton College, to which he was chosen in 1891. He was for a time an assistant in the United States Fish Commission, and a special agent of Fisheries for the Tenth Census, and previously naturalist of the Howgate Polar Expedition, spending two years in the Arctic regions, and forming very important collections in various departments of natural history. His report as naturalist of the expedition was published in 1879, forming Bulletin No. 15 of the U. S. National Museum (8vo, pp. 179), entitled 'Contributions to

the Natural History of Arctic America made in connection with the Howgate Polar Expedition, 1877-78' (Birds, pp. 69-105). He contributed to the late G. Brown Goode's 'North American Food Fishes,' and to various other publications of the Fish Commission, particularly in reference to the fishes of the Great Lakes, and was for a time employed in scientific work at the Milwaukee Public Museum. He was an occasional contributor of notes and short papers on ornithology to 'The Auk,' 'The Nidologist,' 'Forest and Stream,' and other natural history publications, but his most important ornithological publication was his report on the birds of the Howgate Expedition. He was married in 1892 to Miss Anabelle Carr, who, with three young children, survives him.

CURTIS CLAY YOUNG, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union since 1891, died at Port Daniel, Province of Quebec, Canada, July 30, 1902. He was born in New York City, November 2, 1874, and was preparing at the Brooklyn Latin School to enter the Lawrence Scientific School of Harvard University when forced by ill health to abandon further formal study. His love of ornithology became his chief interest, and remained so until his death. In spite of increasing physical disability he made collecting trips to Port Daniel, Quebec, to Dutch Guiana, the Island of Trinidad, and the Bahamas. He was also a member of the Linnæan Society of New York, and of the Brooklyn Institute. His collection of birds, numbering about 800 skins and 400 sets of eggs, is to be placed in the museum of Vassar College.—W. F.

PERRY O. SIMONS, widely known as an energetic and careful collector of birds and mammals, and for several years past employed by the British Museum to collect in western Mexico and in western South America, was assassinated by his native guide near Cuevas, Argentina, about the end of December, 1901. Through his career as a collector he accomplished so much for the promotion of science that it seems desirable to place on record in 'The Auk' some account of his life and services. For the following biographical sketch we are indebted to his brother, Mr. Luther B. Simons, of Maywood, Nebr., who for several years assisted his brother in his work in South America, and who has kindly furnished the facts here given in response to our solicitation.

Mr. Simons was born at Mineral Point, Wisconsin, October 6, 1869, where he spent his boyhood on a farm, and took great pleasure in hunting, fishing, and trapping. In 1886 he left his Wisconsin home and went to Riverside, California. He always had a fondness for books, and a strong desire to secure an education. He was graduated from the Riverside High School in 1893, and the following year entered Stanford University. He spent four years in Stanford, his special course being electrical engineering. During the summer vacations he visited the mountains of California and Arizona, with other Stanford students, to hunt, fish, and collect specimens of birds and mammals, and soon became

an expert collector. In 1896-97 he was employed by Mr. W. W. Price to collect in Mexico. He left San Francisco November 25, 1896, accompanied by his brother, for Mazatlan, Mexico, and the next ten months were spent in collecting in the States of Sinaloa and Durango. The collection of mammals was purchased by the British Museum, and gave such satisfaction that Mr. Oldfield Thomas, the Curator of Mammals, soon engaged Mr. Simons for a three years collecting trip to the Andean region of South America. He was again accompanied by his brother. They left San Francisco September 28, 1898, on the steamer 'City of Sidney.' Work was begun at Guayaquil, Ecuador, and after collecting for some time at various points near the coast, the brothers crossed the Andes by way of Mount Chimborazo, and camped for some time at Riobamba. "From Riobamba," to quote from Mr. Luther B. Simons's letter, "we went down the Río Chambo as far Río Topo; then returning to Riobamba we traveled southward, visiting Cuenca and Loja, two prominent cities in the highlands of Ecuador. Leaving Ecuador we entered Peru, traversed the desert of Piura and Sechura, and passed on down the arid coast to Lambayeque, and thence inland to Cajamarca. Here we were detained by a revolution, and witnessed a big battle, but were not molested.

"From Cajamarca to Lima we traveled partly in the high Andes and partly along the desert coast, there being not a single trail through the interior of Peru, the country is so broken by deep cañons. From Lima we crossed the Andes by the Lima and Oroya Railroad and made a large collection on the Río Perené. We then returned to Lima and took passage by steamer for Mollendo, the southern port of Peru. Here we made small collections and then passed on to Arequipa, Puno, Lake Titicaca, and Santo Domingo. After a month's stay at Santo Domingo we returned to Puno and shipped what specimens we had, and then took passage on the steamer 'Coya' for La Paz, Bolivia. From this point we went into the interior, to a place called Mapiri, on the upper Madra de Dios River.

"We had now been absent two years, which was longer than I had agreed to remain with the expedition, and after making a thorough collection at this point I bade my brother a sad farewell, returned with the specimens to La Paz, and then to Mollendo, sailing thence for San Francisco. My brother had intended to hire some native assistants, but later decided to travel alone. For a year longer he prosecuted his work very successfully, collecting at many points in southern Bolivia and the northern border of Chili. From Antofagasta he went by steamer to Valparaiso, and then by rail to Mendoza, Argentina, collecting at various points in Chili and Argentina. The last letter I received from him was written at Mendoza, December 15, 1901. From information I have received from the British Consul General at Valparaiso, he had dispatched his collecting chest, tent, etc., from a place called Puente del Luca to Valparaiso, and had attempted to cross the Andes on foot to Los Andes, Chili, with a native guide, who, when near a place called Cuervas, Argen-

tina, is supposed to have struck him on the back of the head with a 'penca,' or loaded knot at the end of a rein, and then to have driven a spike through his forehead. His body was found and buried near where the tragedy occurred. The murderer, whose motive was robbery, is now in prison at Mendoza."

Mr. Simons collected birds as well as mammals, sending large collections of the former to the British Museum, but upon which no formal report appears to have yet been published.

Mr. Thomas has described many new species, as well as several new genera of mammals collected by Mr. Simons during his three years' work in western South America, where he collected at numerous points, both on the coast and at high altitudes in the Andes, from southern Ecuador to northern Argentina. This notice of Mr. Simons may be fittingly closed by the following brief but emphatic tribute from Mr. Thomas published in the 'Annals and Magazine of Natural History' for April, 1902 (p. 237 footnote): "While this paper is in press news has been received that Mr. Simons, the most successful mammal collector that I have ever had to deal with, has fallen a victim to his intrepidity, and has been murdered by a guide when crossing the Andes alone with him. Brave to a fault, cheery and enthusiastic, fond of a wild life, successful as a trapper, painstaking, systematic, and extraordinarily rapid in his work, Mr. Simons was the perfection of a collector, and we shall not easily find his like again. I shall hope to publish later a summary of his Andean journeys and their scientific results."

DURING the absence of Mr. Otto Widmann, of Old Orchard, Mo., on a visit to Germany during the past summer, his house was burned and with it the greater part of his library and his manuscripts, including his twenty-five years' observations on birds, and the manuscripts of his nearly completed work on the birds of Missouri. Under this terrible discouragement he can feel sure of the deep sympathy of his fellow ornithologists; whose respect and esteem he has gained by his many contributions to American ornithology, and through personal acquaintance. It is to be hoped that Mr. Widmann's great loss will not prevent his placing before the ornithological world the results of his long experience in a comparatively little known field.

A NEW work on the 'Birds of Ohio,' by William Leon Dawson, with introduction and analytical keys by Lynds Jones, is announced by the Wheaton Publishing Company of Columbus, Ohio, for publication in September, 1903. The work will be a royal octavo of about 500 pages, with 80 colorotype and about 200 half-tone plates, the latter illustrating the "hat tats or favorite haunts of each bird resident of Ohio," as well as many photographic representations of live birds. It will be sold only by subscription, at from \$5.00 to \$7.50, according to the style of binding

RESPECTING the long delayed new edition of the late Dr. Coues's 'Key to North American Birds,' we have received the following circular of information from the publishers, which we feel sure will interest all readers of 'The Auk.'

"Messrs. Dana Estes & Co. announce that the fifth revised edition of the 'Key to North American Birds,' by Dr. Elliott Coues, so long and patiently awaited by the public, will be ready in the spring of 1903. The reason for the unusual delay in its publication may be briefly stated. When Dr. Coues died in 1899 he left the manuscript wholly finished, but the copy was rendered hard to decipher without the exercise of most intelligent care by reason of innumerable interlineations, erasures, abbreviations, 'riders,' and detached notes, written in a minute, and sometimes difficult handwriting. It was evident that had the Doctor lived he would have cast his material, although completed as he left it, into a form which would present fewer difficulties to the compositor. His sudden death left the copy in such shape that the task of revision and preparation for the press required double the amount of work that had been anticipated. The publishers, however, have had the good fortune to obtain the services of a thoroughly equipped ornithologist, who has read the proof with the most painstaking care, which has been ably supplemented by the efforts of a number of professional proof readers. The result is a book which Dr. Coues would have been proud to own as the crowning work of his life. The publishers announce it as being absolutely authoritative and definitive, and express confidence that it is entirely free from errors of statement or form.

"Some of the features which will make the work more than ever indispensable to ornithologists, professional as well as amateur, may be briefly summarized:

"1. The detailed, careful descriptions of species — as in former 'Keys.'

"2. The accounts, much fuller than in former editions, of the breeding habits of birds — dates, nests, and particularly the detailed description of eggs, with careful measurements of same.

"3. The full collation in the *text* (not in an appendix as in former editions) of the nomenclature of species in the 'Key,' with the nomenclature and numeration of the American Ornithologists' Union Check-List.

"(4) The full synonymies and bibliographical references in the case of nearly all species — a new feature of the 'Key,' and invaluable to students of all degrees of advancement. To the preparation of this important feature of the last edition of his 'Key,' Dr. Coues brought his rare gifts as bibliographer and nomenclator. The painstaking character of this work makes it possible for the student to extend with ease his researches in the case of a great many species.

"(5) The professional discussion of questions of classification and nomenclature by perhaps the most eminent of modern ornithologists.

"(6) The introductory (*i. e.*, general) descriptions of ordinal, family, and other groups, are much amplified over those in preceding editions of

the 'Key,' being of a broad scope, which make plain the comparative relationships of North American families, genera, and species of birds, with extralimital forms (Old World and neotropical). This broad treatment makes of the 'Key' more than the merely faunal work which its title would imply — *i.e.*, while it is still emphatically a 'Key to North American Birds,' it contains, more than ever in the past, much general information in regard to birds.

"(7) An invaluable feature of preceding editions — the scholarly explanation of the etymology of scientific names — is retained, and will continue to make the 'Key' unique among works of its class.

"Throughout the 'Key' — in all departments, life histories, descriptions, etc. — Dr. Coues's famous descriptive powers are fully displayed as in the past."

'LONDON BIRDS and other Sketches,' by J. Digby Pigott, is announced by Edward Arnold (37 Bedford St., London), a large crown octavo, with photogravure illustrations. It includes, besides several chapters on London birds and London insects, sketches of the 'Birds of the Outer Farnes,' 'The Shetlands in the Birds'-nesting Season,' 'Haunts of the Shearwater,' 'In Dutch Water Meadows,' etc.

'BIRD-LORE's' plans for 1903 include an article on the first (1872) edition of Coues's 'Key' by its financial sponsor Prof. F. W. Putnam which will doubtless contain some interesting historical details, and, in view of the proposed publication this spring of the revised, two-volume edition of the 'Key' will be especially interesting. The article will be accompanied by photographically reproduced pages of proof of the systematic portion of the 'Key,' with corrections and characteristic annotations by Dr. Coues. 'Bird-Lore' also proposes to publish the photographs of the fifty odd prominent ornithologists forming its Advisory Council and this series, in connection with the group photographs of the Founders of the American Ornithologists' Union, members of the Nuttall Club, and of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club, will indeed make this magazine an album of American Ornithologists. The February number will contain an article by Mr. A. J. Campbell of Melbourne, author of 'Nests and Eggs of Australian Birds,' on the Mound-building birds of Australia, with, we believe, the first photographs of the singular structures erected by these birds to be published in this country.

AMONG the minor Ornithological Clubs, good work has been done at London, Ont., by the 'Ornithological Section of the Entomological Section of Ontario.' At the recent annual meeting of the Entomological Society held in that city the name of the 'Ornithological Section' was changed to 'The McIlwraith Ornithological Club.' This was done at the request of the members of the Club, who wished to acknowledge the

indebtedness of Canadian ornithologists to Mr. Thomas McIlwraith of Hamilton, one of the founders of the A. O. U. and the oldest as well as the foremost Canadian in the science.

The papers read at the meetings of the McIlwraith Club are usually published in the 'Ottawa Naturalist,' but a few have appeared in 'The Auk.' The officers of the Club are: Chairman, J. E. Keay; Secretary W. E. Saunders.

THE THIRD ANNUAL CONFERENCE of the Audubon Societies was held in Washington November 19 and 20, in connection with the A. O. U. Congress, a joint meeting of the Audubon Society delegates and the American Ornithologists' Union being held on the morning of December 20, to hear the report of the Chairman of the A. O. U. Committee on Bird Protection, and an address by Dr. T. S. Palmer on the results of the enforcement of the Federal law for the protection of birds. A public meeting of the Audubon Society delegates was held on the evening of the 19th, and the annual business meeting on the evening of the 20th. Delegates were present from sixteen of the different State Societies. At the public meeting a number of formal papers were read relating to various phases of the work of bird protection, and at the business meeting the special work to be undertaken by the National Committee of Audubon Societies was outlined, this including an attempt to secure the passage of proper laws for the protection of birds in a number of States which have thus far failed to take such action. A Committee was also appointed, consisting of William Dutcher, Frank M. Chapman, T. S. Palmer, and Witmer Stone, to examine the sample stock of wholesale millinery dealers, with a view to systematic and intelligent coöperation between the wholesale millinery trade and the Audubon Societies. Mr. Dutcher was re-elected Chairman of the National Committee, and funds were guaranteed to defray the cost of employing a clerical assistant to enable the Chairman to carry on the arduous duties that are inseparable from this important position. The educational side of bird protection work was deemed of the highest importance, and steps were taken to bring the Societies in closer touch through coöperative publication of educational leaflets and the establishment of a bureau for the exchange of lantern slides for use in lectures on bird protection.

In furtherance of this plan the Chairman has prepared the following:

"APPEAL FOR BIRD NEGATIVES.

"One of the most effective methods of educational work employed by the Audubon Societies is the illustrated lecture.

"Very few of the Societies, however, have been able to secure illustrations owing either to lack of means or of suitable negatives from which to make slides.

“ The National Committee thinks it so important that all of the Societies should have a number of bird lectures continuously in use that it appeals to the members of the A. O. U. who have bird negatives which they have ceased to use, to contribute them to the National Committee in order that slides may be made from them and furnished to the several societies, without cost.

“ Negatives of any species of wild North American birds will be accepted.

“ Acknowledgment of all contributions will be made in ‘ Bird-Lore,’ the official organ of the Audubon Societies.

WILLIAM DUTCHER,
*Chairman National Committee
of Audubon Societies.*”

As shown by the report of the Chairman of the A. O. U. Committee on Bird protection, published elsewhere in this number of ‘ The Auk,’ very satisfactory progress has been made the past year in securing better laws for the protection of birds, and a better enforcement of those already enacted, and the great extension and important influence of the work of the Audubon Societies.